

## **Attachment 4B (1)**

### **Explanatory Note for Department of Defense Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-CW) Report May 2, 2011**

Enclosed is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program information for the Council on Environmental Quality report to Congress, as outlined by section 1609 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), through March 31, 2011. Also enclosed are examples of benefits resulting from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions.

This submission covers 801 ARRA projects, of which 60 are not subject to NEPA requirements. The remaining 741 ARRA projects are covered by 2096 NEPA actions. Only 35 NEPA actions remain pending.

USACE July 2010 submission reported on 804 projects. During the September 2010 reporting period, USACE determined that several projects were not ready to proceed to contract award (before September 30, 2010) and removed them from the tally of projects on page 1. As a result, the total number of ARRA projects/activities was reduced to 801.

The total of 60 projects that are not subject to NEPA is less than the 62 reported prior to the November 2010 report as the seven MR&T projects were previously reported in error (page 1 of Spreadsheet, row 1) and eight construction actions were deemed not to be subjected to NEPA (row 3). The ten ARRA projects under the program "Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program" are excluded under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. NEPA is not required for the Planning Assistance to States Program or the Floodplain Management Services Program. These programs, funded under the Investigations appropriation, provide informational services to local communities or a state with no requirement for further Corps involvement. Some projects under the Operation and Maintenance appropriations are for analysis only, and require no NEPA action.

#### ARRA projects vs. NEPA actions:

As previously reported, there are instances where multiple NEPA actions apply to a single Civil Works project or program. For example, a program could involve numerous sub-projects, or a project could involve numerous phases or sub-projects subject to NEPA.

#### Withdrawn Actions:

During this reporting period, 3 additional projects were withdrawn increasing the total number of withdrawn ARRA actions to 41.

Row 1 – SITKA, AK: ARRA funds were used only for analysis of potential alternatives. NEPA reporting is not applicable beyond the analysis.

Row 4 – ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ARRA project cancelled due to the lack of authority.

Row 20 - THE ARGOSY ROAD BRIDGE, RIVERSIDE, MO project was withdrawn as it was determined the work exceeded the project authority and the sponsor lacked sufficient funds to cost share the project.

Row 68 - LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, OR & WA: Unable to secure local sponsor funding.

Row 101 - WILLAMETTE RIVER BANK PROTECTION, OR: No physical site work funded or planned. Future non-ARRA funding will be needed to develop and pursue any recommended actions.

Row 104 - DUWAMISH AND GREEN RIVER BASIN, WA: Actions changed from 7 to 2. One action was completed and five are not applicable because no final NEPA action is required. One EA/FONSI is complete however, final routing and approval are pending as changes to the authorized project now requires additional reevaluation. This project no longer meets the ARRA timelines and the remaining ARRA funds were moved to other ARRA projects.

Row 123 – THE WALLA WALLA RIVER SECTION 1135, OR project was withdrawn because the project will proceed under the regular Continuing Authorities Program funds rather than with ARRA funds.

Row 146 – DALLAS FLOODWAY, UPPER TRINITY RIVER BASIN, TX: This study was previously reported as pending because ARRA funds were used to fund the early EIS phases. However, the final EIS is now scheduled to be completed in FY 2013 with regular funds. The project is withdrawn.

Row 251 - DES PLAINES RIVER, IL (PHASE II): The EA is being completed as part of the feasibility study, neither being funded under ARRA. ARRA funds are being used for Independent External Peer Review and Model Certification. The draft EA will be submitted to HQ with the draft Feasibility Report for an alternative formulation briefing in summer 2011. Other than the review and model certification, no NEPA actions will be ARRA-funded; therefore, the project is withdrawn.

Row 480 - JAMAICA BAY, NY: ARRA funds were used for a contract to complete the External Peer Review. That specific action did not require a NEPA assessment. However, the study itself will have a NEPA document, possibly an EA using regular funds. It is uncertain when the EA will be completed and released to the public. If the investigation study requires NEPA actions, they will be completed with regular funds.

Row 486 - THE LONG ISLAND SOUND, NY: Project was withdrawn at the request of the local sponsor who no longer wishes to pursue the project.

Row 519 - THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, PA (Cobbs Fish Passage): Project was withdrawn because ARRA funds will not be utilized in FY 2010. This project will be completed in FY 2011 with regular funds.

Row 521 - THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, PA (MILL CREEK): Project was withdrawn because ARRA funds will not be utilized.

Row 690 & 693 - CARPINTERIA SHORELINE STUDY, CA & MATILJA DAM, CA (Meiner's Oaks & Live Oak Levees): These are completed investigation studies that do not have associated NEPA actions

Row 705 – SANTA ANA RIVER MAINSTEM, CA (Reach 9 improvements 2a): This project is not funded by ARRA and is therefore withdrawn.

Row 706 - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA, CA (Vegetation Removal): This project was cancelled and all ARRA funds reprogrammed to other ARRA work

Row 725 - SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASIN WEST STANISLAUS, ORESTIMBA, CA: Unable to complete the EA due to the sponsor's inability to cost share the project.

Row 728 - GUADALUPE RIVER, CA: ARRA funds withdrawn due to unresolved issues with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

Row 764 - PAJARO RIVER, CA: Withdrawn. ARRA-funded work on the EIS document was discontinued at the end of FY10. Remaining work necessary to complete the EIS will be funded with regular funds. Expected completion of the EIS is December 2011.

Row 768 - COYOTE VALLEY DAM, LAKE MENDOCINO, CA: No NEPA action required as a change in scope for one project made an EA unnecessary and the other project is on hold until further notice. When reactivated, USACE will use regular funds.

Row 770 - DRY CREEK (WARM SPRINGS) LAKE & CHANNEL, CA: Project is not expected to be performed with ARRA funds as complex issues caused a slippage in the schedule.

Row 776 - SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR AND BAY, CA (DRIFT REMOVAL): This project, previously reported, is not active and no NEPA actions are underway. This project is also listed below under reporting error heading.

Row 826 - APALACHICOLA, CHATTAHOOCHEE AND FLINT RIVERS, GA, AL & FL (LN2 project 10973): The project/activity and ARRA funding is for preparation of an EIS to support an update of a Water Control Manual that is a multiyear in-progress task. ROD is scheduled for January 2012. Project withdrawn as the remaining NEPA actions will be funded with O&M funds.

Row 845 - JIM WOODRUFF LOCK AND DAM, LAKE SEMINOLE, FL, AL & GA (LN2 project 11009): Extensive coordination is required with other permitting and regulatory agencies. Required field hydro-geophysical studies are underway, the scope of effort has been reduced, and completion of the NEPA work is anticipated within 6 months. NEPA compliance satisfied for ongoing geophysical/engineering studies (CE), with possible EA, WQC, etc. needed for remedial actions to “plug” the underseepage pathways in open waters of Lake Seminole. This was an evaluation of the upstream water losses at Woodruff. No action resulted from the evaluation, nor will an action be executed using ARRA funds. This project is withdrawn.

Row 851 – TENNESSEE – TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY, AL & MS (LN2 project 11042): Environmental review/documentation awaiting detailed project description/design. Draft engineering report has only conceptual measures identified. NEPA compliance satisfied for ongoing engineering studies (CE), with possible EA, WQC, etc. needed for remedial actions to remove sediment accumulations or construct sedimentation reduction structures. NEPA documentation, if required, anticipated within 6 months. This is the Aberdeen sedimentation evaluation. This project was an evaluation of volume and source of sediment in the Aberdeen impoundment. No action resulted from the evaluation, nor will an action be executed using ARRA funds. This project is withdrawn.

Rows 890, 892 and 893 - The three Regulatory projects were withdrawn as they are no longer being pursued.

The following projects were withdrawn because ARRA funds were not provided:

Row 52 - CHERRY CREEK LAKE, CO

Rows 107 and 110 - ALBENI FALLS DAM, ID

Row 116 - HOWARD HANSON DAM, WA

Row 119 - LAKE WASHINGTON SHIP CANAL, WA

#### Pending Actions:

During the reporting period, 8 NEPA actions were completed and 3 were withdrawn, reducing the number of pending actions from 46 as of December 31, 2010, to 35 as of March 31, 2011. Pending actions include projects with issues such as scope changes, site selection delays, extensive coordination with other agencies, and sponsor delays that will take multiple reporting cycles to complete. In USACE’s first submission of funded projects in June 2009, all funded projects were marked as pending even if the ARRA project had not started. Because of this decision, these actions are identified as pending on multiple reports. These remaining 35 pending actions are progressing to completion.

Row 103 - PUGET SOUND AND ADJACENT WATERS RESTORATION, WA: The final NEPA document is awaiting the final Water Quality Certification from the State. We are expecting Certification of compliance documents in July 2011.

Row 269 - ECORSE CREEK, MI: The local sponsor is preparing the NEPA documentation that will be reviewed by the District. The draft EIS will complete ATR by the end of September 2011. Anticipate DEIS mailed out for public review by December 2011.

Rows 304, 309, 404, 411, 417 and 419 - R D BAILEY LAKE, WV (Master Plan Update, YATESVILLE LAKE, KY (Master Plan Update), ALUM CREEK LAKE, OH (Master Plan Update), DELAWARE LAKE, OH (Master Plan Update), FISHTRAP LAKE, KY (Master Plan Update) & GRAYSON LAKE, KY (Master Plan Update): the EAs are being completed as the Master Plan is being completed. Completion dates have been updated based on Contractor status updates. The current scheduled dates for completion of the actions are 27 June 2011 for R D BAILEY LAKE, WV, 25 July 2011 for YATESVILLE LAKE, KY, 19 August 2011 for ALUM CREEK LAKE, OH and DELAWARE LAKE, OH, 16 September 2011 for FISHTRAP LAKE, KY, and 28 September 2011 for GRAYSON LAKE, KY.

Rows 394, 395, and 396 - CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA, WV: The MASON draft EA was returned to the sponsor's A/E contractor due to HTRW issues. NEPA is now scheduled for completion in July 2011. EAs for PUTNAM and ROSEDALE are being prepared by the sponsors' contractors and NEPA is scheduled to be complete in June 2011.

Rows 401 - SOUTHERN WV ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, WV RESTORATION, WV: The MERCER draft EA is currently under review internally and should be released for public comment during April 2011. NEPA is scheduled for completion in May 2011.

Row 481 - SOUTH SHORE OF STATEN ISLAND, NY: With renewed Sponsor support, ARRA funds were used to award the 24 September 2010 A-E task order which is expected to be completed by April 2012. Analysis is underway. A draft EIS will be prepared within the same timeframe.

Row 613 - MISSISSIPPI ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, MS PROGRAM: Four of the six pending from line 613 of the last report have been completed as of early March 2011. Line 612 has been adjusted to show 10 completed now with only 2 pending. Schedule remains the same, but the last two projects are variable because local municipalities can drop out due to lack of funding or they cannot exactly agree upon what they want, delaying the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA). Hopefully, the PPAs will be signed and these last 2 completed soon.

Row 662 - FARGO, ND - MOORHEAD, MN METRO STUDY (RRN BASIN AUTH): The schedule is extended for completion of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro study to allow for additional analysis of alternatives and impacts. The Draft EIS was distributed for public

review and a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register on 11 June 2010. The comment period closed 9 August 2010. In light of downstream impacts of a diversion being greater than first anticipated, it was determined that a supplemental draft environmental impact statement is necessary. The Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft EIS was published in February 2011. The Supplemental Draft EIS is scheduled to be distributed for public review in April 2011. The Final EIS is scheduled for distribution to the public for review and comment in October 2011.

Row 707 - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA, CA (4 Master Plans): Extensive coordination with the sponsor and other agencies is ongoing. Completion date of contract is February 2011 to reach 100% preliminary status. MPs and draft EAs completed under contract still require DQC, review and certification by OC and minimum 30-day public review, response to comments, revisions of documents if needed, and final/FONSI signed expected to be completed by early Summer 2011. Schedule contingent on funding from Asset Management Division to support necessary in-house reviews and contract oversight. Although under ER 1130-2-550 and ER 200-2-2 Master Plans may be supported by Categorical Exclusions, the complexity and potential controversy of these documents prohibit same.

Row 720 - CAMBRIA SEAWATER DESALINATION, CA: EIS delays result from persistent push back from California Coastal Commission and other state agencies relative to Coastal Consistency Determination and clearances required for geotechnical borings. Contract awarded 15 September 2010. Complex issues with rights of entry and geotechnical issues persist with California State Parks involving designation of new State Marine Park. Are developing EA for geotech investigations and EIS for water supply. Current Schedule: Geotech Investigation EA/MND

March 2011 - April 2011

FONSI - early May 2011

CA Coastal Commission hearing - July 2011

Geotech testing - Sept 2011 to December 2011

Desalination/Water Supply

NOI - April 2011

Resources Agency Meeting - late April 2011

Public scoping meeting - May 2011

Row 724 - WHITLOW RANCH DAM, AZ: Contractor has completed draft Master Plan and EA. District Quality Control, Office of Counsel Certification must be completed prior to minimum 30-day public review and preparation of final document and FONSI. Schedule contingent on provision of additional funds. Although under ER 1130-2-550 and ER 200-2-2 Master Plans may be supported by Categorical Exclusions, the complexity and potential controversy of this document prohibits same.

Row 736 - FARMINGTON RECHARGE (SEC 502): Scheduled for completion in 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2011. Contract awarded in August 2010. Complex issues persist involving water delivery to project site.

Row 788 - JACKSONVILLE HARBOR, FL: The draft report is scheduled for submission to SAD in November 2012. FY11 activities include ship simulation testing, widening alternatives and turning basin optimization, deepening evaluation of preferred alternative, salinity impacts for wetland mitigation. Efforts will continue into FY12 for selection of the TSP, final design, disposal options, cost estimating, mitigation plan, and compilation into the draft report. The contracts for environmental resource surveys of future upland disposal site and for geotechnical resistivity to define top of rock and core borings for calibration are complete. The contract for cultural resource investigations in widening and turning basins is ongoing. The signing of the ROD by ASA is expected by 12 Oct 2015. This will conclude the NEPA process.

Row 789 - MILE POINT, FL: The revised draft report was completed and submitted to the PCX for review in December 2010. Report submitted to SAD 4 April 2011 and the AFB is tentatively scheduled for 25 May 2011. Additional activities for FY11 include revisions for SAD and HQ comments, and release to the public for review. The final report would not be completed until FY12.

Row 790 - PORT EVERGLADES HARBOR, FL: The draft report and EIS were scheduled for submission to the PCX for review in late March 2011. Due to schedule delays, completion of the draft EIS is now expected in July 2011. Submission to SAD and AFB scheduling will slip accordingly.

Row 791 - ST JOHNS COUNTY, FL: The FSM package was submitted from SAD to HQ on October 25, 2010 and HQ comments were received in January 2011. The FSM was held March 15, 2011. Due to limited funding, completion of the FSM is the major task for FY11. Further alternative development will be delayed until new funding is received in FY12. The signing of the ROD by ASA is expected by 13 November 2015. This will conclude the NEPA process.

Row 821 - ALABAMA RIVER LAKES, AL: The project/activity and ARRA funding are for preparation of an EIS supporting update of a Water Control Manual, which is a multiyear task now in progress. The ROD is scheduled for July 2012. Work beyond September 2011 will be funded with other O&M funds. ACT WCM EIS. The project is pending, with anticipated completion in July 2012.

Row 855 - WALTER F GEORGE LOCK AND DAM, AL & GA: EA/SMP update in progress. Public meetings scheduled for March 2011 did not occur. OC is changing language in the Shoreline Mgt Plan, which will in turn change the NEPA language. OC has not yet completed their changes. Public/agency coordination of the Draft EA and SMP with public meetings cannot occur until the NEPA documentation is updated. They are expected to be held in the May/June timeframe.

Row 868 - BOGUE BANKS, NC: NEPA is included in a feasibility study report that when approved will be released to the public. The feasibility study and NEPA actions are progressing with completion scheduled for September 2012.

Row 870 - STANLY COUNTY WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE, NC: NEPA is part of a report that will be released to the public in February 2011.

Row 877 - JOHN H KERR LAKE, VA & NC: There are two NEPA actions pending. An EA is part of report that will be released to the public . The Master Plan update with EA is progressing with completion scheduled for December 2012. The contractor is still working on the shoreline stabilization EA.

Row 887 - W KERR SCOTT DAM AND RESERVOIR, NC: NEPA is part of a report that will be released to the public. The Master Plan update is progressing with completion scheduled for December 2012.

#### Reporting Errors:

Row 768 - SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR AND BAY, CA (DRIFT REMOVAL): Reporting error - No project or NEPA action are pending.

Row 123- WALLA WALLA RIVER Section 1135 project, previously withdrawn in June, 2010, had been inadvertently deleted in past reports. This report corrects the error by restoring it to the "Withdrawn" project list.

#### Special Notes

There are several projects where the NEPA actions were completed many years ago. All these projects are either operation and maintenance repair or dredging work that received funding to analyze the necessity and environmental soundness of the work. However, these projects did not receive funds to perform the work until ARRA funds were provided. Under today's conditions, the work is still viable and the environmental situation has not changed. Therefore, the NEPA actions undertaken previously are still valid. These are the instructions provided to the districts after having gone through several iterations.

### Examples of NEPA Benefits:

#### Row 247 - Project: LORAIN HARBOR, OHIO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' NEPA process for the Lorain Harbor, Ohio dredging allowed a reiteration and reconsideration of dredged material management alternatives and provided the opportunity for public interest review. Analysis conducted in conjunction with the NEPA action verified that a greater volume of dredged material was suitable for unconfined open-lake placement thereby obviating the need to provide additional confined disposal capacity than was previously planned through the Lorain Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP).

#### Row 513 - Project: WINTER HARBOR, MATHEWS COUNTY, VA

The NEPA process for the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Winter Harbor, Virginia Federal Navigation Project alerted the District to the potential impacts of depositing channel sediments upon an eroding beach shoreline inhabited by the federally endangered Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle. The District, during development of the Environmental Assessment and consultation with the FWS, developed conservation and mitigation measures designed to protect the beetle. These measures resulted in maintenance dredging that avoided work during seasons that would impact the beetle, created additional habitat, and completed the maintenance dredging to facilitate navigation.

#### Row 697 - Project: TRES RIOS, AZ

The Tres Rios project connects Rio Salado and Rio Oeste environmental projects in Phoenix, Arizona, and continues the restoration of the Salt River west to the Agua Fria River. Tres Rios provides a net environmental benefit by maintaining the effluent, thereby enhancing the riparian area in addition to protecting 600 structures from flooding. This project maintains habitat for many species of birds, reptiles and mammals to live, nest and raise young. The NEPA process alerted the agency of the potential impact of placing dredged material in sensitive areas that would have impacted the wildlife and resulted in realigning the dredged material placement areas to maintain the habitat areas.

Row 72 - Project: *Wyeth Treaty Fishing Access Site* – Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites, OR & WA. The project will provide access to usual and accustomed fishing areas and ancillary fishing facilities. The following benefits were realized:

- **Cost and Energy Savings.** The offsetting action completed at the Rufus site was done in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USFWS. The result of this cooperation was a less costly project to the Corps of Engineers and an overall larger project that provided more environmental benefits.
- **Better Protection of Resources.** The NEPA process helped identify the potential impacts of the site construction and provided input into the design to minimize these effects. The groins were moved away from the shore to provide fish passage and the project footprint was reduced to minimize impacts to benthic habitat. Offsetting actions were developed with the agencies at Gorton Creek and Rufus Island to minimize impacts from the projects. The dock design was also changed to allow light penetration.

- Public Participation and Community Agreements. The NEPA document was reviewed by the federal and state agencies, tribes, and local interest groups. Their input helped formulate the above design features.

Project: *Bolivar Beneficial Use Marsh in Galveston Bay, Texas*

While reviewing the proposal to create a 200-acre Bolivar Beneficial Use Marsh in Galveston Bay, Texas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked with other agencies to form the Beneficial Use Group to devise a plan to eliminate open bay placement of dredged material and to use dredged material to create environmental features that provide a net benefit to the Bay ecosystem. Historically, deep-draft channel construction and maintenance material had been deposited into unconfined, open bay placement areas in Galveston Bay, which resulted in adverse impacts to bay bottom habitat now designated as essential fish habitat. Further, the loss of intertidal marsh has been identified as one of the critical problems of the Galveston Bay estuary by the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program. As a result of the environmental review for projects including the Bolivar Beneficial Use Marsh, the Group prepared a plan to create intertidal marsh and nesting islands for colonial water birds. The project also provides benefits to important recreationally and commercially valuable fish species.

Row 173 - Project: *88-acre Mitigation Marsh* - Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels (HGNC) Project, TX - Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District - 1995 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, 1998 Environmental Assessment, and 2010 Environmental Assessment:

As noted in the example above, the formation of a Beneficial Use Group (BUG) during the Galveston Bay NEPA process led to a plan to eliminate open bay placement of dredged material and to use dredged material to create environmental features that provide a net benefit to the Galveston Bay ecosystem. As a result of the NEPA process, the BUG came up with a plan to create intertidal marsh and restore and create colonial water bird nesting islands with HGNC new work and maintenance material. This project will result in a net benefit to the Galveston Bay ecosystem by creating 88 acres of intertidal marsh for mitigation of impacts from expansion of PA14/15, that will provide benefits to important recreationally and commercially valuable fish species.

Row 490 - Project: Maintenance Dredging Arthur Kill Reach of the New York and New Jersey Channels, Federal Navigation Project. Environmental Assessment and FONSI 24 Sep 2008

The activity consists of maintenance dredging the most critical shoals in the Arthur Kill Reach (from Outerbridge Crossing to Goethals Bridge – approximately 9.5 miles). The dredged material was not suitable for ocean placement and was placed at a suitable contractor-furnished, state-permitted upland disposal site(s) to be approved by the Government.

Environmental Assessment supplements in 1973 EIS and the 2003, 2005, 2007 EAs indicated that maintenance dredging of the Arthur Kill Reach with the placement of the dredged material at an upland beneficial use site/NBCDF has no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection. The FY2009 proposed maintenance activity is consistent with the action described in the previous Environmental Assessments.

The following restrictions were implemented for the 2009 maintenance dredging of the Arthur Kill Reach of the New York and New Jersey Channels.

- No dredging from February 1 to May 31 – to avoid disturbance during winter flounder spawning and nursery periods.
- If nesting activity by herons or egrets is confirmed prior to the start of dredging activities on Pralls Island, no dredging is to occur within 1,000 feet of Pralls Island from 1 April – 31 July.
- No dredging activity is to occur within 1,000 feet of Island of Meadow from 1 April – 31 July, for avian protection.
- No dredging activity is to occur under or within ¼ mile of the Outerbridge from 1 March – 31 July, for the protection of Peregrine Falcons.
- Dredging shall be accomplished using a closed environmental bucket. It shall be lifted slowly through the water column, at a rate of 2 feet per second or less.
- Barge overflow is not allowed.

Implementation of the above restrictions resulted in the protection of fishery resources, water quality and nesting activity of herons/egrets and Peregrine Falcons.

Row 633 - Project: DES MOINES AND RACCOON RIVERS, IA

Over the years, frequent flooding impacted large numbers of Des Moines, Iowa residential, commercial, and industrial properties. In cooperation with Des Moines, the Rock Island District (District) conducted a flood reduction feasibility study with an integrated environmental assessment. The project's study team evaluated many alternatives involving levee operation and maintenance, improvements, and new alignments that would reduce operation and maintenance costs and improve safety during flood events. Due to the importance and value to the City of Des Moines, the District expedited their report preparation with emphasis on adaptive management. The NEPA process established mitigation requirements and agency coordination pivot points based on the desired final plans. The close project coordination between the District and City of Des Moines resulted with the feasibility report/EA including wetland mitigation based on a series of levee alignment scenarios within the preferred alternative. All the scenarios resulted in no significant impacts.

Row 634 - Project: IOWA RIVER, IOWA CITY, JOHNSON CO., IA

The District COE proposed a project to construct emergency streambank and erosion protection for a major city thoroughfare in Iowa City, IA, along the Iowa River. The original plan and environmental assessment included bank protection encroaching approximately 15 feet into the river. During the NEPA process, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) indicated there was a possibility the project may impact two state threatened mussel species. The District completed the mussel survey, which found 11 native mussel species, including the state endangered Pistolgrip. Based on the mussel survey findings, the District and IDNR worked together to relocate all the recovered mussels to a nearby mussel sanctuary and the District reduced the project footprint in the river to avoid impacts on the mussels.

Rows 266-268 – Project: CHICAGO HARBOR, IL

The project consisted of maintenance repairs to existing breakwaters and replacement of Chicago Harbor lock gates. The NEPA process allowed a reiteration and reconsideration of harbor maintenance and operations alternatives and provided public interest review opportunities. Analysis conducted in conjunction with the NEPA action revealed improved method of repairing and extending the life of existing breakwaters at a fraction of replacement cost. In addition, the NEPA analysis also verified the need for the replacement of the Chicago Harbor lock gates, insuring their flood control reliability.

Row 310 - Project: HOVEY LAKE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT, IN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' NEPA process for the Hovey Lake Habitat Development Project in southwestern Indiana provided for reconsideration of wetland and moist soil management practices at the largest natural lake in the state. About half of the lands that make up the wildlife management area are federally owned and out-granted to the state. This area is a branch of the Mississippi flyway and within a North American Waterfowl Management Plan priority area for restoration. More recent analysis identified the best combination of moist soil management units and bottomland hardwoods restoration.

Row 389 - Project: TENNESSEE RIVER, TN

New Johnsonville and Pickwick Mooring Cell Replacement. This project consisted of replacement of two sets of mooring cells along the Tennessee River. NEPA agency scoping was performed and identified potential for impacts to federally-listed mussels at the New Johnsonville site. Agency scoping was performed for both sites even though the work could be covered by a categorical exclusion. The Pickwick Cells were replaced without additional coordination requirements. This agency scoping did identify potential mussel issues at one site (New Johnsonville) due to federally-listed mussels in the vicinity. The Corps delayed work at the New Johnsonville site until mussel surveys were performed and the results coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies. While the mussel survey found no federally-listed species, approximately 400 mussels were relocated from the project footprint prior to construction resulting in less impacts on native mussels. The survey results were coordinated with the Service and other state agencies.

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